

NEWS and GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON



Lucky Congressman Receives \$12,500 Back Salary

WASHINGTON.—There probably has never been a man who looked upon \$12,500 with quite the same emotions as those which filled the breast of Michael J. Gill of St. Louis when he saw that amount chucked up to his credit in the office of the sergeant-at-arms of the house. Gill, he it known, is the man who journeyed here from St. Louis, and after months of desperate work succeeded in prying L. C. Dyer from his seat in the house.

The money is the salary due him as a congressman from the beginning of this congress. Dyer received the same amount in monthly payments, and the government loses by it. Gill was a plumber, and all he had when he came here was a house and \$3,500 in the bank. They cleaned him out before he got through with his case.

When a person contests a seat in the house he has to bring charges and sustain them before an election committee. He has to get witnesses and go over and over again all the ragtag and bobtail testimony, stand up under cross-examinations that test their origin in Gehenna, and pay for the stenographer at the same time. Stenographers collect by the word.

One of Gill's witnesses made a statement which resulted in a cross-examination which cost Gill just \$200. It was the plainest refutation of that old lie "talk is cheap" that you could find in a day's journey. Talk wasn't cheap to Gill, who would sit there and see his \$3,500 running out like the sand in an hour glass. He had the thing down so fine that he knew the very word which drained the last cent from his bank account and made him mortgage his home.

When that tragic word was spoken, Gill went out and got a job. The job was in a glass works in or near Alexandria. Also his son, Joe, went out and hooked a job playing a violin in a cheap theater. Joe is a natural musician, yet the best he could do was to snatch a dollar or two now and then. As a part of the irony of things he was invited to play at a congressional women's reception, and also at the White House. He went from a fifty-cent engagement to the president's music room with the same stolid air that the elder Gill trudged back and forth to the glass works while making money enough to pay his board and hang on like a bulldog to that election contest.

That's why many of the men in the house voted for Gill. They knew about the glass works, the mortgaged home and the boy playing at 50 cents a throw in moving picture theaters. That's why that \$12,500 looked like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow to the elder Gill.

How a Western Senator "Ruined" His Silk Hat

A WESTERN senator, who is serving his first term in congress, came to Washington well-informed upon matters of politics and of general interest, but rather green when it came to questions of conventional attire. He visited a tailor and ordered a new outfit of clothes, which included a full dress suit and a dinner coat, both of them articles of apparel which up to that time had never graced his figure. The tailor fixed him up with a proper outfit, advised him as to the cut of the vests and coats and told him that with the full dress suit he must wear a silk hat.

In the senator's home town a high silk hat worn on the main street would have excited widespread comment and probably would have served as the target for the town marksmen. But realizing that he must adapt himself to the new conditions and must uphold his dignity as a senator, he proudly added the hat to his wardrobe. At the next White House reception the senator appeared in full regalia. None of the duce-spot statesmen from the effete East had anything on him when it came to conventional attire. His coat was right, he had the proper kind of vest and his ready-made white tie looked as good as anyone's. But on his way home—he walked instead of taking a cab—it began to rain and before he reached his house his fine silk hat was a bedraggled and sorry-looking affair. The next day he stopped to tell the tailor his troubles.

"Well, I ruined that fine silk hat last night," he said. "I went to the White House reception and on my way home the hat was entirely spoiled."

"What happened to it?" asked the tailor.

"It got wet," said the senator, "thoroughly drenched. It looks like the dickens and the fur is all rubbed the wrong way."

"Well, call up the hatter and have him send after it and iron it out, and it will be all right," said the tailor.

"Why, can it be fixed up? It can? I thought if it got wet it was gone for good. Sure, I'll have it fixed, for I want to get ready for the next reception." And the western statesman went away happy.

Senator Kern of Indiana Loses His Pay Check

SENATOR KERN of Indiana the other day called at the office of the senate disbursing clerk, there to cash his monthly pay-check. He reached into his right-hand, lower vest pocket, and the check was not there.

"Look in your other pockets," suggested the clerk.

"No use," groaned Mr. Kern. "I am dead foot enough to carry all my valuables in that pocket. Up to this time it has cost me \$300 to carry my money and keys there, and now it has cost me \$1,000."

"We can stop payment on this check," began the clerk, but the senator did not hear him.

"I had to make a special trip to Indianapolis, costing \$60, because I lost my safety vault key out of this pocket," continued the sorrowful Kern. "Then I lost \$240 in bills and change out of it. Now my pay check—almost \$700—is gone, too."

"I'll teach me a lesson, though. I'll buy a purse and have a pocket for it made in my underwear."

The clerk broke in here to assure the disconsolate senator that payment on the check could be stopped and a new voucher issued. Kern thanked him; the voucher was issued and the money pushed across the counter. The senator pocketed it and wandered away.

"Holy Moses!" said the disbursing clerk to his assistant. "Did you see that?"

"See what?"

"Where Senator Kern put all that money."

"Where'd he put it?"

"In his right-hand, lower vest pocket," replied the disbursing clerk.

Wilson Dodges Sleuths to Go on Shopping Trip

SHORTLY after ten o'clock the other morning a distinguished looking person with a carefree expression came out of the White House and stood for a moment on the portico at the main entrance. He was attired in a linen suit and carried a small bundle of papers under his arm. Soon he swung into a brisk walk toward the east front gate, nodding pleasantly to those whom he met on the way. Many turned to watch him as he strode along, probably being impressed with the air of freedom which he seemed to breathe and his utter independence.

It was, of course, the president of the United States. But where were the secret service guards?

Suddenly there was sound of a commotion in the vicinity of the executive offices. Two husky men of the secret service ranks were then seen rushing across the lawn. The president quickened his pace, appeared to be about to run, and then gave up the race. As the men, out of breath, caught up with him, he said: "I came very near getting away that time."

The president was out on a little personally conducted shopping expedition. He stopped at his bank, inquired about his balance, just as many another American citizen might do, and then looked over some summer clothing in a downtown store.



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